

Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, July 18, 1997, at 2 p.m. to hold a hearing.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS
AND REGULATORY RELIEF

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Regulatory Relief of the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, July 17, 1997, to conduct an oversight hearing on the HUD rebuilding and loan guaranty program for financial institutions created as part of last year's church burning legislation.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FORESTRY, CONSERVATION,
AND RURAL REVITALIZATION

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry's Subcommittee on Forestry, Conservation, and Rural Revitalization be allowed to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, July 17, 1997, at 2:30 p.m. in SR-328A to receive testimony regarding the State and private forestry programs and the Northern Forestry Stewardship Act.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Immigration of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary, be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, July 17, 1997, at 3 p.m. to hold a hearing in room 226, Senate Dirksen Building, on: the VISA Waiver Pilot Program.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL FINANCE

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on International Finance of the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, July 17, 1997, to conduct a hearing on the reauthorization of the U.S. Export-Import Bank.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, HISTORIC
PRESERVATION AND RECREATION

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on National Parks, Historic Preservation, and Recreation of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be granted permission to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, July 17, for purposes of conducting a subcommittee hearing which is scheduled to begin at 2 p.m. The purpose of this hearing is to receive testimony on S. 895, to designate the reservoir created by Trinity Dam in the Central Valley project, California, as

"Trinity Lake"; S. 931, to designate the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Wilder-ness and the Ernest F. Coe Visitor Center; and S. 871, to establish the Oklahoma City National Memorial as a unit of the National Park System; to designate Oklahoma City Memorial Trust, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

FISCAL YEAR 1998 LEGISLATIVE
BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS BILL

• Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, overall, this is a good bill. It shows that the Congress is concerned about finding savings in its own operations to contribute to deficit reduction.

The bill does reduce slightly the total number of employees in the Senate offices from last year's levels. It contains numerous reductions in unnecessary spending requested by various offices and affiliated organizations. Some of the more interesting examples of items requested by offices but which were very wisely not included in this bill are:

A seismic study of the Capitol Building for \$75,000; \$30,000 for maintenance of outdoor sculpture in the Peace and Garfield parks; and a study of electromagnetic fields in the Russell Building which would have cost \$50,000.

The report also directs the General Accounting Office to place higher priority on Members' requests for audits. This has been a particular matter of concern to me, since the time the GAO sent auditors to middle of the gulf war to inspect Apache helicopters. I appreciate the committee's understanding and assistance in refocusing the efforts of the GAO on the work required by Congress, rather than self-initiated agendas.

Unfortunately, though, the bill increases funding for the Senate and joint Congressional operations by \$51.6 million over last year's levels, for a total of \$1.538 billion. For the Congress to approve an increase in spending for its own operations seems to me ill-advised, particularly as we continue to struggle to reach agreement on legislation to provide tax relief and reduce Federal spending.

In addition, there are several provisions in the bill language that I would ask the managers to clarify further.

For example, \$100,000 is earmarked from the Library of Congress budget for an International Copyright Institute. Another \$2,250 from the Library of Congress budget is set aside for official representational and reception expenses of the International Copyright Institute. My question is, what is this International Copyright Institute, and why is it singled out for an earmark of this sort?

The bill also provides \$354.2 million for the General Accounting Office—an increase of \$15.7 million over last

year's level. This 4.6 percent increase is an unfortunate reversal of the trend to reduce the size and cost of the GAO.

The report states that this \$345 million will pay for 3,500 full-time equivalent personnel. It is curious to me that the GAO can, in effect, hire 3,500 staffers, while all 100 Senators make do with just slightly more than 3,900 staffers, including our State offices.

The bill also earmarks an unlimited amount of GAO's funds to finance "an appropriate share" of the expenses of several different programs:

The Joint Financial Management Improvement Program, including the salary of the Executive Director and secretarial support; the National Intergovernmental Audit Forum or a Regional Intergovernmental Audit Forum, as determined by the respective forum, including necessary travel expenses of non-Federal participants; and the American Consortium on International Public Administration, including any expenses attributable to its membership in the International Institute of Administrative Sciences.

Again, I wonder why these particular institutions are deserving of an earmark for unlimited amounts of the GAO's budget.

In addition, the report language contains several funding and language provisions that cause me some concern. For example:

A provision for \$118,000 increase in travel, consultant, and representational funding for the Secretary of the Senate.

A provision for \$25,000 for training and travel expenses related to training for employees of the Senate Child Care Center. Shouldn't these employees already be well-trained in child care when they are hired?

A provision for \$500,000 for improved lighting in the Senate Chamber. I hadn't noticed a particular problem with lighting in the Chamber.

A provision for \$100,000 to design a new subway from the Russell Building to the Capitol Building. Mr. President, we have already spent huge amounts of money to install a new subway from the Dirksen and Hart buildings. Why do we need to spend more money on subways, and why does it cost a half-million dollars to design a subway when I assume it will be very similar to the one already built from Dirksen and Hart?

A provision for \$550,000 to modernize elevators in the Hart Building. This building is relatively new and I wonder why a half-million dollars is needed at this time to upgrade the elevators.

Again, I congratulate the managers of the bill for their hard work and scrupulous attention to detail. This is, overall, a very good bill, but I hope that, in conference with the House, unnecessary spending can be dropped to bring the total back in line with current levels of spending.

I ask that list of objectionable items be printed in the RECORD.

The list follows:

BILL LANGUAGE

\$100,000 from the Library of Congress budget for an International Copyright Institute.

\$2,250 from the Library of Congress budget for official representational and reception expenses for activities of the International Copyright Institute.

\$354.2 million for the General Accounting Office—an increase of \$15.7 million over last year's level.

This 4.6 percent increase is an unfortunate reversal of the trend to reduce the size and cost of the GAO.

The report states that this will pay for 3,500 full-time equivalent personnel. It is curious to me that the GAO can, in effect, hire 3,500 staffers, while all 100 Senators make do with just slightly more than 3,900 staffers, including our state offices.

Earmark of unlimited amount of GAO's funds to finance "an appropriate share" of the expenses of the Joint Financial Management Improvement Program, including the salary of the Executive Director and secretarial support.

Earmark of unlimited amount of GAO's funds to finance "an appropriate share" of the costs of the National Intergovernmental Audit Forum or a Regional Intergovernmental Audit Forum, as determined by the respective forum, including necessary travel expenses of non-Federal participants.

Earmark of unlimited amount of GAO's funds to finance "an appropriate share" of the costs of the American Consortium on International Public Administration, including any expenses attributable to its membership in the International Institute of Administrative Sciences.

REPORT LANGUAGE

\$118,000 increase in travel, consultant, and representational funding for the Secretary of the Senate.

Provides \$25,000 for training and travel expenses related to training for employees of the Senate Child Care Center.

\$500,000 for improved lighting in the Senate Chamber.

\$100,000 to design a new subway from the Russell Building to the Capitol building.

\$550,000 to modernize elevators in the Hart Building. •

ENERGY AND WATER
APPROPRIATIONS BILL

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I would like to ask the ranking member on the Energy and Water Development Subcommittee, Senator REID of Nevada, a question regarding the funding for hydrogen research in the appropriations bill for fiscal year 1998.

Mr. REID. I would be pleased to answer a question from my colleague.

Mrs. BOXER. Thank you. As you well know, funding for the Department of Energy's Hydrogen Research Program is critical to the advancement of hydrogen technologies. The President's budget for fiscal year 1998 requested \$15 million. The committee, through the efforts of the ranking member, increased the budget request by \$4 million to \$19 million. As we know, the Hydrogen Future Act that passed by the Congress last year authorized \$25 million for fiscal year 1998.

As the ranking member of this appropriations subcommittee I sincerely appreciate his efforts to increase funding for hydrogen research in the energy and water development bill. As we

know, the Department needs the funding that they have requested to pursue the furthering of hydrogen by working with the private-sector and our national laboratories to demonstrate the effectiveness as well as the safety of hydrogen. I know that my ranking member is as interested as I am in the demonstration and validation of hydrogen power technology. I support his request for a demonstration and evaluation at the Nevada test site as part of the Department of Energy's Hydrogen Research Program budget.

I would like to ask the distinguished ranking member if he would elaborate on the intentions of the committee report language as it relates to the Department allocating funds for a comprehensive validation program at the Nevada test site. If I understand this correctly, the distinguished Senator from Nevada is suggesting that the Department should begin phase 1 of a program in fiscal year 1998 that will establish at the Nevada test site a single location to administer testing and evaluation of industry-led hydrogen energy systems.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, that is correct. First, I am deeply concerned that increased consumption of refined petroleum products for transportation will continue to climb and the quality of the air we breath will continue to deteriorate. Additionally, our reliance on foreign oil can only aggravate our trade imbalance as well as jeopardize our national security.

Therefore, I felt it to be vitally important that we begin to move forward and establish, at least, one location to allow the Department of Energy the ability to begin the precommercialization of hydrogen technologies. And the Department should provide to the committee a plan for the furthering of this center at the Nevada test site in future years. Hopefully, their fiscal year 1999 request will mirror the authorization of \$30 million contained in the Hydrogen Future Act in order to fully implement the center. Full funding at the authorized levels are the only way that we can begin to bring this technology to the marketplace. Furthermore, it is my hope that the administration will view our increased funding of the hydrogen research program as a clear indication that there is support for this technology in the U.S. Senate.

Mrs. BOXER. I thank you for clarifying this most important issue and will continue to look to your leadership in this area. •

EXPLANATION OF SELECTED
VOTES ON SPENDING PORTION
OF THE BALANCED BUDGET ACT

• Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, recently, the Senate considered historic changes to preserve Medicare for future generations. I think it is important to outline my views in detail on a few of the key votes cast regarding these issues.

I voted to table an amendment by Senator MIKULSKI to reinstate the Boren amendment. In negotiating with the White House on this balanced budget agreement, we all agreed that the best way to reform Medicaid is to allow Governors the maximum flexibility to design programs that meet the unique needs of their States. The biggest barrier to this flexibility, according to the bipartisan National Governors Association, is the Boren amendment. The Boren amendment has allowed the court system to set reimbursement rates, and these rates have been inflated much higher than what the market would determine. These higher rates have cost the States millions of dollars a year and have inhibited the ability of States to implement real program reforms. For this reason, I supported the bipartisan budget agreement and the decision to revoke the Boren amendment.

I voted to table an amendment by Senator KENNEDY which would require specific health benefits for children with special needs. I believe that our package went a long way in meeting the important goal of providing health benefits to children in need. Mr. KENNEDY's amendment, however, would take away the flexibility that Governors need to develop the best possible plan for their States. Instead, Mr. KENNEDY's amendment would allow the Federal Government to mandate both what the benefits should look like and who should receive them. I believe this amendment represents movement in the wrong direction.

I voted against an amendment offered by Senator DURBIN and Senator WELLSTONE which would reinstate food stamp benefits to the children of legal immigrants. We have already negotiated certain changes in regard to services for legal immigrants in the bipartisan budget agreement. I am committed to upholding that agreement and believe that this amendment went outside the scope of the agreed to changes.

Senator D'AMATO offered an amendment to take the money saved by changing the Medicare and Medicaid Program and direct it to National Institutes of Health to provide medical research. While I wholeheartedly support increased funding for NIH, I do not believe this is an appropriate funding avenue and therefore opposed it. In fact, I believe that money saved through changes to Medicare should go toward maintaining the long-term solvency of the Medicare Program.

I voted against an amendment offered by Senator DODD which would add \$100 million to provide health care to children who are severely disabled. While I believe this is an important goal, I maintain, and received assurances to that end, that the health needs of severely disabled children would be met through the additional \$24 billion we will be spending on our children's health package already incorporated in this bill.